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**From:** Zachary Janowski <zacharyjanowski@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 11:57 AM  
**To:** GAETestimony  
**Subject:** Raised bill 5481

I am writing as the chairman of the Freedom of Information committee for the Connecticut chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

The Freedom of Information Commission effectively applies the law balancing government transparency with the need for some documents to remain secret. There is no need to drastically change the system for applying this law. Many disagree about whether the law the commission applies is appropriate. We can debate the need for those changes separately. Journalists and, as far as we know, agencies we face at the commission level have no problem with the current structure.

The Freedom of Information Commission, with a budget of less than \$2 million, represents less than 1/1000 of the state budget. Attempting to streamline the small agencies that seek to keep the rest of government in check could have the opposite effect of allowing the rest of government to expand beyond any savings achieved.

The board of the Connecticut chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists urges you to vote against this proposal.

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